

Remarks

Applicants request a reconsideration of the present patent application in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 10-12 and 15 have been amended and claims 9, 14 and 20-37 have been cancelled. Claims 38-48 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19 and 38-48 are pending in the application.

Claims 14 and 15 have been objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claim 14 has been cancelled, and claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 9 and 14. Further, claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 15 are in proper form for allowance.

As claims 2-8, 10-13 and 16-19 now depend from allowable claim 1, Applicants request that the rejections to these claims be withdrawn.

New claims 38 and 39 depend from allowable claim 1 and are believed to be in proper form for allowance.

New claim 40 is directed to a trap for use in a system including a reformer and a fuel cell. The trap includes a shell, a first chamber, and a second chamber. The first chamber is positioned within the shell and includes a particulate filter. The second chamber is positioned within the shell and includes a sulfur adsorber material. The trap is fluidly coupled with the reformer and the

fuel cell, wherein the trap is positioned between the reformer and the fuel cell.

New claims 41-45 include additional features that further define the trap in claim 18.

New claim 46 is directed to a trap for use with energy conversion devices. The trap includes a trapping system comprising a filter element and a trap element. The filter element includes a catalyst and the trap element includes a sulfur adsorber material. The trap also includes a reforming system that is fluidly coupled to the trapping system, with the trapping system positioned after the reforming system. New claims 47 and 48 include additional features that further define the trap in claim 46.

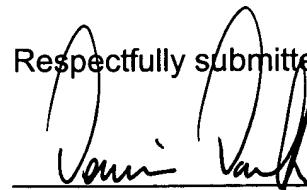
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19 and 38-48 are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that any unresolved issues remain in this case, the undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number listed below to arrange for an issue resolving conference.

Applicants do not believe that any fee is due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee that may have been overlooked to Deposit Account No. 10-0223.

Dated: 5/17/05

Respectfully submitted,



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fuel cell, wherein the trap is positioned between the reformer and the fuel cell.

New claims 41-45 include additional features that further define the trap in claim 18.

New claim 46 is directed to a trap for use with energy conversion devices. The trap includes a trapping system comprising a filter element and a trap element. The filter element includes a catalyst and the trap element includes a sulfur adsorber material. The trap also includes a reforming system that is fluidly coupled to the trapping system, with the trapping system positioned after the reforming system. New claims 47 and 48 include additional features that further define the trap in claim 46.

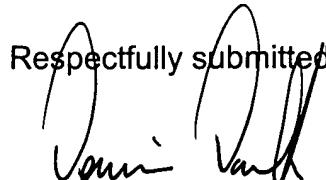
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PATENT

Serial No. 09/781,687 (89190.034105/DP-302902)

Response to Office Action dated February 17, 2005

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